

Key Insights from Early Adopters of the Food Security Solutions (FSS) Prioritization Process

DAVENPORT DUNBAR HOME PANTRY



Step 3: Estimate Values



To improve the food security of the very low income seniors in Hamden, Conn., a local church launched a volunteer-based, food supplement program, “Home Pantry,” which delivers bags of assorted foods (selected to provide 100 percent of the daily requirements for calories, protein, vitamins and minerals) twice per month at no charge to seniors in the Davenport-Dunbar residence. The Davenport-Dunbar residence houses more than 300 low income residents and seniors with disabilities, many of whom lack the funds by the end of the month to purchase necessities such as groceries.

In the first year, the Home Pantry was able to serve 10 percent of these residents; by 2019, more than 46 percent of the residents were enrolled with projections of threefold growth the next year. In anticipation of expansion, the Home Pantry was considering moving out of the local church and into a larger facility; the FSS Prioritization Process provided the framework for selecting the new location.

The cost differences between the potential spaces were determined using the **Financial Estimates Worksheet**. For example, one location was expected to have higher startup costs because blinds needed to be installed, and variations in heating costs due to differing fuel source (gas vs. oil) was identified. These estimates, in turn, influenced some of the **Impact Score** criterion (e.g. sustainability).

In the final step, **Prioritization**, this information allowed the Advisory Panel to not only identify the best option for their new location, but to communicate to the Board of Directors the systematic, transparent process used to make the final decision.

Key Insights from Davenport-Dunbar Home Pantry

Using the process to compare costs and impact scores, the Davenport-Dunbar team easily selected a new location and was able to communicate their reasoning and decision to the Board of Directors.

Hamden, a small suburb of New Haven, CT, has often been rated one of the best places to live in America because of its blend of urban and suburban resources, reputable education system and overall charm. Forty percent of residents of the town, however, struggle to make ends meet and, according to the United Way of Greater New Haven’s report “Facts and Faces: Food Hardship in Hamden (2019),” food insecurity is more prevalent in the community than previously thought.

Step 3 (Estimate Values) of the FSS Prioritization Process allowed the Home Pantry to identify a new location for its operation. This is an example of its flexibility and how some steps can be used independently of others.

Find the **Food Security Solutions Prioritization Toolkit** at www.eatrightFoundation.org/FSSToolkit or email FSS@eatright.org